

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 SCCT-02 SY-04

DRC-01 /140 W

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R 191736Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5742

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2443

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETLB, PINT, ES

SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION STRIKE SUSPENDED; OTHERS CONTINUE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2349

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. STRIKING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS SUSPENDED THEIR WEEK-LONG STRIKE AND RETURNED TO WORK ON JUNE 17 AS A RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT REACHED BY REPS OF THEIR UNION, SUTC, AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CHAMBER. CHAMBER REPORTEDLY AGREED TO BARGAIN IN GOOD FAITH AND TO DROP ITS CHALLENGE TO SUTC'S STATUS AS LEGITIMATE BARGAINING AGENT. SUTC, ON THE OTHER HAND, AGREED TO SUSPEND THE STRIKE AND DROPPED SEVERAL OF ITS DEMANDS, INCLUDING THE INSTITUTION OF A DAILY WAGE INSTEAD OF PAY BY THE JOB. MINLAB CHAVEZ TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN GETTING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER, REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS FROM PRES MOLINA. IN A CONVERSATION WITH LABOR OFFICER, CHAVEZ SAID THAT THE GOVT'S FIRST PRIORITY WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF "POLITICAL STABILITY" AND IMPLIED THAT IT ACTED IN PART TO HEAD OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF
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SYMPATHY STRIKES THREATENED BY OTHER UNIONS, INCLUDING THE

COMMUNIST-DOMINATED FEDERATIONS FUSS AND FESTIAVTSCES.
SUTC SEC GEN ZALVIDAR PRIVATELY EXPRESSED PLEASURE
WITH THE AGREEMENT AND SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS,
WHICH RESUMED JUNE 18, WOULD PROGRESS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL
COMPLICATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE TOLD LABOR OFFICER THAT THE
STRIKE WOULD RESUME IF A NEW CONTRACT WERE NOT SIGNED BY JUNE 31.

2. COMMENT: ALL PARTIES TO THE STRIKE SEEM RELIEVED THAT THE
STRIKE HAS ENDED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE
INTERIM AGREEMENT SPELLS AN END TO THE SIX MONTH EFFORT BY THE
PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOES TO UNDERCUT ZALDIVAR'S POSITION.
END COMMENT.

3. A NUMBER OF RELATIVELY MINOR LABOR DISPUTES REMAIN TO BE
SETTLED, INCLUDING THE CROP-DUSTERS STRIKE (REFTEL). WORKERS AT
THE PESQUERA EL TRIUMFO, A MAJOR FISHING CONCERN OWNED BY RAFAEL
GUIROLA, STRUCK ON ABOUT JUNE 11 AFTER MONTHS OF CONFLICTIVE LABOR-
MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, 186 BUS DRIVERS ON THE HEAVILY
USED SAN SALVADOR-CUIDAD DELGADO ROUTE STRUCK ON JUNE 14; TO PROTEST
THE ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL DISMISSAL OF 56 FELLOW WORKERS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FIVE ARMED PERSONS SET FIRE TO FOUR
BUSES OWNED BY ANOTHER COMPANY, ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 18, CAUSING
DAMAGES ESTIMATED AT 60,000 COLONES. THE INCIDENT SEEMS UNRELATED
TO THE STRIKE AND PROBABLY IS ANOTHER EFFORT BY EXTREMISTS
TO DRAMATIZE CONTINUED DISCONTENT OVER THE RECENT BUS FARE
INCREASE AND RELATED COST-OF-LIVING ISSUES.
CAMPBELL

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